

March 11, 2012

The Honorable Raymond H. LaHood
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: City of Seattle MERCER WEST TIGER IV application

Dear Secretary LaHood:

On behalf of the Bicycle Alliance of Washington board of directors and membership, I am pleased to write in support of the City of Seattle's application for the US Department of Transportation TIGER IV grant. Funding from this grant will be dedicated to the Two-Way Mercer West project.

The Bicycle Alliance of Washington advocates for a bicycle-friendly Washington. The Mercer Corridor is a critical transportation connection that carries more than 70,000 people a day and currently lacks adequate options for people on bicycle and foot. It connects two neighborhoods that are critical in Seattle's growing global health, technology, and biotechnology. It also connects neighborhoods that are increasingly residential and carless.

Mercer West builds off of the City of Seattle's commitment to grow bicycle connections throughout the center city neighborhoods. The project includes an important, separated trail and sidewalk where only a four-foot sidewalk currently exists. It also reconfigures the roadway of Roy Street to include buffered bicycle facilities. Finally, and perhaps most innovative, the project is incorporating the start of a separated cycle track to facilitate safer bicycle connections between the Queen Anne neighborhood and downtown Seattle. Completion of the Two-Way Mercer West project will help knit together some of Seattle's densest employment and residential neighborhoods with strong multimodal connections.

The TIGER program has been successful in funding innovative projects that meet multiple goals. The Bicycle Alliance of Washington supports Mercer West because it uses an integrated approach that meets the needs of bicycle users, freight, transit, pedestrians, and motor vehicle use in a very critical corridor for Seattle's livability, mobility, and commerce.

Sincerely,



Blake Trask
Statewide Policy Director
Bicycle Alliance of Washington

cc:

Senator Patty Murray
Senator Maria Cantwell
Governor Christine Gregoire
Congressman Jim McDermott
Mayor Mike McGinn, Seattle